

REMARKS

1. This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 13, 2003. Claims 4-13 and 15-20 remain pending in this application.
2. Claim 11 has been amended by incorporating the limitations of claim 14. Claim 14 has been cancelled.
3. Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejections under 35 USC 103.

Trinh teaches a composition for treating fabrics and more specifically clothes (textiles) in order to restore and/or maintain freshness by reducing malodor without the need for washing or dry cleaning.

The compositions disclosed in this document comprise :

- solubilized, uncomplexed cyclodextrin: 0.1 - 20 % (weight),
- cyclodextrin-compatible fabric wrinkle control agent,
- cyclodextrin compatible antimicrobial active and/or cyclodextrin compatible surfactant.

Trinh also discloses a method of treating fabric to reduce wrinkles in said fabric with an effective amount of the

composition above described, said composition being applied as very small droplets.

According to the Examiner, Trinh teaches a composition for treating textiles comprising a cyclodextrin and polycarboxylic acid and further comprising a catalyst and insect repellent.

The Applicant believes that the composition disclosed by Trinh differs significantly from the composition of the present application. The Trinh composition comprise different ingredients: cyclodextrin, wrinkle control agent, antimicrobial agent, surfactant. Each ingredient is meant to produce its own effect on the textile to which it is applied, alone and not by interaction with another ingredient(s) of the composition, the only condition imposed being the compatibility with cyclodextrin.

In the present application, the ingredients from each of the two groups of materials: 1 and 2 (as defined in claim 11) of the mixture, participate effectively to chemical reactions (copolymerisation, cross linking) which have as result:

- in a first embodiment, the chemical fixation of the copolymer to the fiber via covalent bonds;

- in the second embodiment, the mechanical fixation by cross linking via a three dimensional network.

In other words, the fact that there is a chemical interaction between the different ingredients of the mixture is a necessary and sufficient condition that allows the permanent fixation of cyclodextrin or cyclodextrin derivatives to a fiber in order to improve its absorption properties.

Moreover, the polymers of mono- and polycarboxylic acids in Trinh have a role of shape retention, whereas in the present application the poly(carboxylic) acids are reticulant agents, participating actively to polymerization/cross-linking reactions.

No element disclosed by Trinh would suggest to a person skilled in the art to use a composition comprising cyclodextrin or a cyclodextrin derivative and a poly(carboxylic) acid in the manner described in the present application.

Regarding the process for treating a fiber disclosed in the present application (as described in the new claim 11), this process is characterized by:

- a combination of different steps: impregnation of the fiber with an aqueous solution to obtain an impregnated fiber; drying said impregnated fiber at a temperature in the range of 40 to 150°C to obtain a treated fiber; heating said treated fiber to a temperature between 150 and 220°C, the result obtained after these three steps being the formation of well characterized chemical bonds in polymers fixed to or coating said fiber;
- a specific selection of conditions of temperature for the drying and heating step that allows to obtain as final product a fiber with improved absorption capacities.

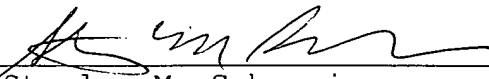
The applicant believes that it would not be obvious to a person skilled in the art and aware of the teachings of Trinh either to follow the combination of steps as described in the process of present application, or to make a selection of conditions that allow to permanently fix cyclodextrin or a cyclodextrin derivative to a fiber as described in the present application.

Moreover, the method for treating textiles disclosed by Trinh is destined for in-home use. Its purpose (wrinkle control and odor-absorption) is attained by applying the disclosed composition onto a textile to obtain a temporary effect (between two washes). In the present application the process described is destined to industrial use, its aim (improving the absorption properties of a fiber) being obtained by permanent fixation of cyclodextrin to the fiber.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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